

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome California, 2010

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the sudden death of an infant under one year of age which remains unexplained after a complete postmortem investigation, including autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical history.

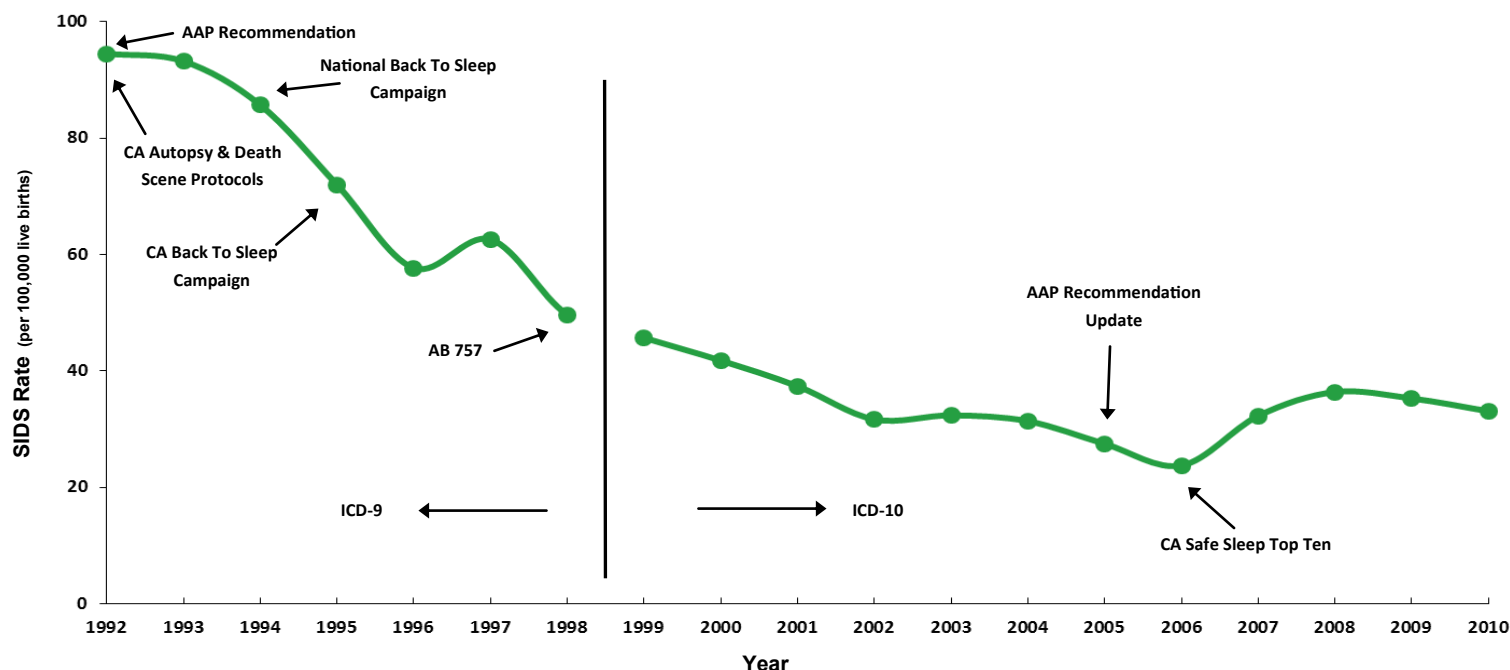
SIDS Data in California in 2010

In 2010, 169 infants died from SIDS in California, representing a rate of 33.1 (per 100,000 live births), a decrease of 6 percent from 2009 and 28 percent since 1999 when the rate was 45.7 (per 100,000 live births).

The figure below shows California SIDS rates from 1992 to 2010. The rise in SIDS rates beginning in 2007 may be related to a change in diagnostic methodology, such as variance in death scene investigations and application of underlying cause of death diagnoses.

Beginning in 1999, SIDS rates cannot be compared to previous years because rules classifying SIDS as the underlying cause of death changed with the introduction of the 1999 update to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10).

Rate of SIDS in California, 1992-2010



Data Source: California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical and Death Statistical Master Files, 1992-2010.



Highlights

- ▶ SIDS was the fourth leading cause of infant death (birth to one year of age) in 2010.
- ▶ For all postneonatal infants (aged one month to one year), SIDS was the second leading cause of death.
- ▶ Male infants continue to be more likely to die from SIDS than female infants. In California in 2010, male infants accounted for 64 percent of all SIDS deaths.

► Racial and Ethnic Disparities

SIDS mortality rates, similar to other causes of infant mortality, have notable racial and ethnic disparities. In California in 2010, the African-American/non-Hispanic SIDS rate was almost six times that of the White/non-Hispanic rate and four times that of the Hispanic SIDS rate.

► Age at Death

There is a distinctive age pattern for SIDS. In California in 2010, the highest percentage of SIDS occurred when the infant was between 1 and 6 months, with 76 percent of deaths due to SIDS occurring before the age of 7 months.

► Seasonality of SIDS

The number of SIDS deaths is often higher in the cold, winter months. Parents often place extra blankets or clothes on infants for extra warmth when the added material may actually increase the risk for SIDS. However, data for 2010 did not show a seasonal pattern for SIDS in California.

SIDS Risk Reduction

In 1989, the Governor of California signed the first of four SIDS bills into law. These laws launched California SIDS services, education, and research. In 1998, California passed Assembly Bill 757 requiring hospitals to provide parents of newborns with SIDS risk reduction information, furthering California's effort at reducing infant deaths due to SIDS.

In 1992, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended changing an infant's sleep position from stomach to back/side to reduce their risk of SIDS. In 1994, the national campaign promoting "Back to Sleep" was launched and in 1995, California launched a statewide risk reduction campaign including "Back to Sleep". Between 1992 and 1998, SIDS rates in California declined 47 percent. In 2005, the AAP updated the "Back to Sleep" recommendations to further reduce the risk of SIDS and in 2006 California launched the "Safe Sleep Top Ten¹" messages including the updated AAP recommendations.

On October 18, 2011, the AAP released the policy statement, "SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Expansion of Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment." These recommendations updated the 2005 AAP recommendations related to SIDS risk reduction, including recommendations on a safe sleep environment that can reduce the risk of all sleep-related infant deaths, including SIDS.

For more information

- Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health SIDS Program Website: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Pages/default.aspx
- SIDS by County, 2008-2010: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSByCounty2007-09.pdf
- SIDS by Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2010: www.cdph.ca.gov/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSByRace-Eth2005-09.pdf
- SIDS by County, 2007-09 and 2008-10: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSByCounty2006-08and2007-09.pdf
- SIDS Rolling Averages 1999-2010: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-SIDSRollingAverages1999-09.pdf
- SIDS California Rates Graph: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/SIDS/Documents/MO-SIDS-CaliforniaRatesGraph.pdf
- ¹California SIDS Program: <http://www.californiasids.com>